



GOVERNOR  
DUMMER  
ACADEMY

# the Archon

## newsletter

SUMMER 1973

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

As I sit down to write a word for the alumni and the friends of Governor Dummer Academy, 1973's Commencement lies already two weeks behind us. The effects of the Ragles' first year in the Mansion House — and of my first ten months at the big desk beneath the portrait of Duncan Phillips in the Phillips Building — are still new, still kaleidoscopic, still a bit too close for sure assessment. Yet the summer is short; 1973-74 will be upon us quickly. Even in the absence of a total impression, I would do well to gather together those individual recollections which have left a clear mark and begin to search for whatever design they suggest.

Let me start with what stands out: the message conveyed by the people who, when all is said and done, in what they are and in what they do define what the Academy is. For despite its lovely setting, its sturdy colonial aspect, its enviable facilities, the Academy is neither more nor less than the sum of the lives of those who live and work here and those who come here to school.

At the Commencement banquet on June 1 and during the graduation ceremonies on June 2, it was my happy privilege to award 36 major prizes to a total of 31 recipients. Eight prizes went to underclassmen: a cheerful omen. Even after 28 had been distributed amongst 26 seniors, who represented just over one-quarter of the graduating class of 100, the dominant realization which struck just about simultaneously those of us who have worked closely with the Class of '73 was that there remained many, unnamed, who were themselves eminently prizeworthy. What a testimony to a key strength of the Academy today!

At the same time that we were taking leave of this year's graduates, we were saying, with a mixture of regret and pride, goodbye to six members of the faculty: two strong teachers entering business (hopefully not abandoning

teaching permanently, but at any rate representing a healthy infusion into the business world); one to retirement after more than 50 years of school-teaching, four of them recently in Byfield; one to complement his several years of experience in independent secondary school with public-school teaching; one to assume leadership of a fine new church in his home state; and one to become headmaster of another school. What a testimony to the virility of this venerable Academy that it can relinquish a half dozen strong teachers and yet retain, as I am convinced it has, the strength of its faculty essentially undiminished!

In its vital elements, the strength and the promise of its people, the Academy remains robust; to its goals, the pursuit of good learning and of sound self-development, it remains faithful.

Still, we have not yet attained Elysium. There are areas of serious concern: some of them stand as evidence that we can and do too often fall short of our aim to graduate young people capable of coping with a complex culture in a complex era; some of them speak to the effects of our day and time upon private institutions.

It is a truism to reiterate that we live in a world of such rapid change that we must educate not in terms of a foretellable future, but for change .. that is, for successfully confronting the unforetellable. Many of the young people who come to us are wary of commitment, feel safer with a narrow range of personal goals, want rather to withdraw or to reject than to participate except on their own terms. They are a predictable product of the complexities of their time. But their reluctance to commit themselves to the attainment of a sound community weakens them as individuals, weakens the school, and can promise no strength to the larger community into which they will graduate. One of the greatest challenges now facing Governor Dummer is to discover a way

to encourage all its people to enter willingly, each with his own unique contribution, into community with one another.

A second challenge, just as great, since any chance of success with the first rests upon it, is to survive as an independent institution in the first place. When I came here in September, 1972, GDA, unlike scores of other private non-profit organizations, was operating in the black, a happy condition which, by dint of stringent effort, it had attained, against the current of the day, only a year or two before. That current, the economic forces of the present, has intensified. Now, even without capital expansion or large capital improvement, with an operating budget which we know to be cut to the bone, we will experience an operating deficit in 1973; the years lying immediately ahead promise little better.

We have a threefold obligation: to maintain at the Academy the best education, both in the academic and the broader sense, that can be conceived for those who come here; as educators, to search out new ways of doing so which will protect our strengths and husband our resources; and to present to alumni and to friends a school which they will value and which out of their own convictions they will support by their recommendations and by their contributions.

I earnestly invite interest in what is happening at the Academy. Write, visit, raise questions, make recommendations. If you will lend us your support, we stand a chance of making in this small community a community which will truly work: which will employ the individuality and uniqueness of each to the betterment of all. The richest promise that Governor Dummer Academy can fulfill is to nurture the pursuit of good learning and to issue forth young women and young men who possess an honest concern for the common good because they have experienced it here.

John W. Ragle  
Headmaster

*Archon notebook*



# ALUMNI DAY

May 19, 1973

## *Registration*



*Rod Gearhart and friend with Jack Ragle*



*The Headmaster  
welcomes alumni in  
Thompson Auditorium*



## *Luncheon*







*Mrs. David Powers and Shiela Ragle*



*Roger Block, Carter Evans, Val Wilkie*



*Ned Lattime, Mike Rogers,  
Mac Murphy, Steve Cox, Roger Block*

*a time for meeting people  
and renewing old acquaintances,*

*for listening to students,*



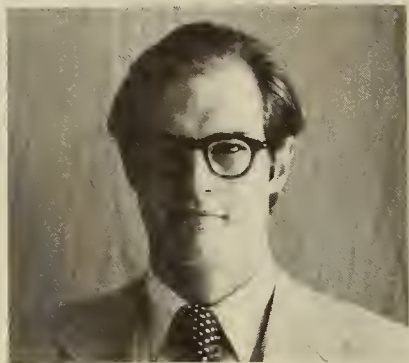
*Carl Buechner, Dick Segler, Ray Dunn,  
Gerry Dietz, Dave Goodhart*

*and for  
watching girls  
and boys play  
St. Paul's in lacrosse*





## NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



David S. Mitchell of the Class of 1968 has been appointed to the position of Director of Development, succeeding Valleau Wilkie, Jr. The appointment is effective as of July 1.

At the Academy Dave was the student-athlete. A consistent honor roll student, he was elected to the Cum Laude Society in his senior year. Athletically he lettered in track and football, captaining the latter. He was also president of the senior class.

Harvard followed Governor Dummer, and Dave devoted his athletic talents to crew, rowing in the varsity eight oared shell for three years. In 1972 he just missed making the U.S. Olympic boat on the last cut.

For the past year Dave has been an associate director of the Harvard College Fund.



*cocktails and dinner in Phillips*



*Henry Dunker and daughter*



*Fritz entertains*

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